



ASSEMBLYMEMBER NICOLE PARRA

Representing the 30th Assembly District



Parra Notes

May 26, 2006

Hello Friends:

WEEKLY HIGHLIGHT

My job is full of great highlights and inspiring moments. One of these inspirational moments took place this week when **AB 2645**, also known as **Esmeralda's Law**, passed from the **Assembly Floor** by a vote of 66-1.

AB 2645, which relates to sun protection, would clarify that current statute allows students to wear hats, as protection from the sun, during physical education courses without a doctor's note or parental permission.

Earlier this year, I visited **John Muir Middle School**, in **Corcoran**. During one meeting, I met with **Ms. Celeste Cook's 6th grade students**, who made a presentation on skin cancer and the tragic death of **Esmeralda Perez**, a constituent who died of skin cancer, which likely developed during her childhood years.

Her mother, **Lillian Perez**, has been working closely with the **students at John Muir** to educate parents and students about skin cancer prevention. The students requested that clarification be made to the current statute – **SB 1632 (Billy's Law, 2002)** by **Senator Don Perata** – to emphasize that hats, not only sunscreen, can be used without a doctor's note or parental permission.

During their lifetime, about twenty percent of Americans will experience some form of skin cancer. With rates like that, it is easy to see how serious a problem this type of cancer poses to our communities. So, it is critical that we take precautionary steps, from early on, to protect people from overexposure to the sun, which is a leading factor in skin cancer incidences.

NOW, TO THE REST OF MY WEEK IN SACRAMENTO

To start out the week, I sat down with representatives from the **California Immigrant Welfare Collaborative (CIWC)** to discuss a number of their legislative priorities. The **CIWC** is an organization dealing with health and welfare issues affecting California's immigrant population. We chatted about a number of bills covering a wide range of issues including health care and benefits, education, labor, and voting rights.

To read more about the **CIWC**, please access their web site <http://www.caimmigrant.org/>

Dr. John Welty, the **President of California State University (CSU), Fresno** and a few students from the school stopped by my Capitol office to have a conversation about education issues in general, but specifically about **AB 2813**. **AB 2813**, by **Assemblyman Hector De La Torre** would expand student financial aid through **Cal Grant programs** by making existing requirements less stringent. I plan to offer my support for this important measure and look forward to working with **Assemblyman De La Torre** and education officials, like **Dr. Welty**, in making this bill a success.

If you would like to find out the latest news about **CSU Fresno**, please take a look at their web site <http://www.csufresno.edu/>

Also, to learn more about **AB 2813**, please feel free to call **Assemblyman De La Torre's** office at (916) 319 –

2050 or send him an e-mail to Assemblymember.DeLaTorre@assembly.ca.gov

This week, I also sat in on a hearing of the **Assembly Budget Subcommittee Number 4**, during which I voted for the **restoration of funding** that will go toward the implementation of a strategic plan for the **Partnership for the San Joaquin Valley**.

Also supporting the restoration of the funds were **Assemblymen Juan Arambula** and **Michael Villines**. The move to restore the funding passed by a vote of 5-0.

The **Valley** never gets its fair share from the state and the cutting of the initial allocation by seventy-five percent is just another example of this unfair trend. I am glad my colleagues saw the benefit in ensuring the **Partnership** receives the support it needs to continue functioning as a vehicle for the Valley's progress.

In his **May Revise**, **Governor Schwarzenegger** allocated \$5 million for the **Partnership's strategic plan**; however during a **Senate subcommittee hearing**, funding was reduced to \$1.25 million.

This budget item now moves to a joint **Senate** and **Assembly Budget Conference Committee** for further consideration.

I also had the chance to meet with the **President of California State University (CSU), Bakersfield, Horace Mitchell**, and the **University's Vice President of University Advancement, Michael Chertok**. We discussed a number of higher education and legislative issues.

To find out the latest goings on at **CSU Bakersfield**, please go to their web site www.csub.edu/

Michael Lane and **Peter Carey** of **Self-Help Enterprises (SHE)** paid me a visit this week to talk about a number of their projects in the **Central Valley**. These projects include low income housing and business assistance efforts in **Hanford, Earlimart, and Delano**.

I encourage you to check out their web site at www.selfhelpenterprises.org/

Also this week, representatives from the **Bench Bar Coalition** visited me as part of their **Lobby Day**. The representatives thanked me for my work in securing funding for additional judges in **Central Valley courts**.

Huron's Mayor Ramon Dominguez and **City Manager Robert Wilburn** stopped by my office, too, to offer their thanks for my work on the recent bond package that will go before voters in November. We had a fabulous visit, as they updated me on the latest happenings in **Huron**.

I took some time to meet with representatives from the **California Association of Health Underwriters (CAHU)**. We talked about a number of health care related issues as they relate to the budget and legislation that is coming up in the legislature.

If you have a minute, please visit their web site at www.cahu.org/

Also this week, I had a fantastic visit with students from **Maple Elementary School**, in **Shafter**, and **St. Rose McCarthy Catholic School**, from **Hanford**. My staff and I spent time answering questions from the students and provided them with a tour of the **State Capitol**. It is always great when our **Central Valley** students are able to come to Sacramento and see firsthand the hustle and bustle of **California's capital city**.

As a former **Chair of the Assembly Committee on Veterans Affairs**, I hold a special place in my heart for our veterans, and so, on Thursday I introduced **Assembly Concurrent Resolution (ACR) 154**, which designates **May 25, 2006** as **Yellow Ribbon Day**.

Yellow Ribbon Day signifies our support for **military families** and for **our troops** fighting in **Iraq** and **Afghanistan**. The measure, co-authored by **Assemblyman Joe Nation**, received 61 additional co-authors as it passed off the **Assembly Floor**.

I know we are all very busy, but it is important to take time out and reflect on the sacrifices being made by military families and our troops overseas. We have a very proud and heroic tradition of military service and we should be grateful to the men and women who serve our nation.

To close out the week, I attended a **joint session** of the **State Senate** and **State Assembly**, as **President Vicente Fox of Mexico** gave an address on the **Assembly Floor**. It really was an honor to be in the presence of this respected head of state, who was in **Sacramento** meeting with **Governor Schwarzenegger** and other officials to discuss **California-Mexico relations**.

*****HELPFUL STATE GOVERNMENT LINKS*****

I would like to encourage everyone to visit the California issue area web sites below. They are very informative and really interesting.

California Climate Change Portal

Sponsored by the California Climate Change Center to combine information on the impacts of climate change on California and the state's policies relating to global warming.

<http://www.climatechange.ca.gov/>

California Business Portal

This website provides a portal to a number of resources for starting, growing, financing, expanding or relocating a business in California.

<http://www.calbusiness.ca.gov/>

Governor Releases 2006 - 2007 State Budget

Visit the Department of Finance's E-Budget to view the Governor's New 2006 - 2007 California State Budget.

<http://www.ebudget.ca.gov/>

Where can I find information about entering my child into kindergarten?

<http://www.cde.ca.gov/re/pn/fb/yr03compulsoryed.asp>

Become active in community service activities by visiting the web site for the California Service Corps

<http://www.csc.ca.gov/>

Gasoline and diesel prices have increased across the United States after Hurricane Katrina damaged the Gulf Coast petroleum infrastructure. Although California has adequate gasoline supplies, prices have climbed to over \$3.00 a gallon.

Take action and learn how you can save gasoline and money.

http://www.fypower.org/save_gasoline/

NEED HOMEWORK HELP?

The **California State Library** has made available through their website a new service called **Live Homework Help**. This service enables students to connect on-line with a tutor for assistance with homework questions. Supported by Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) federal funding, students can access Live Homework Help through [28 California public libraries](#). It is important to note that the tutors who respond to student questions are screened, trained, and closely monitored.

Live Homework Help is easy! Log on to <http://www.library.ca.gov/tutor/> from your computer any time between 1:00 p.m. and 10:00 p.m. and follow the simple setup instructions.

MEETING REQUESTS

If you or your organization would like to set up a time to meet with me or would like for me to attend an event you are sponsoring, please feel free to contact my **Executive Secretary Ellen Manolis** at (916) 319-2030 or by e-mail at Ellen.Manolis@asm.ca.gov.

INTERNS WANTED

I am accepting applications for the internship program in my **Hanford**, **Bakersfield** and **Sacramento** offices. Candidates should be residents of the **30th Assembly District**, possess solid research and communication skills, and have a strong interest in public policy and political issues facing the **Central Valley**. Applications can be found by going to: <http://democrats.assembly.ca.gov/members/a30>.

For Hanford office internships contact **Richard Valle** at **(559) 585-7170** or by e-mail at Richard.Valle@asm.ca.gov.

For Bakersfield office internships contact **Paula DeLaRiva** at **(661) 334-3745** or by e-mail at Paula.DeLaRiva@asm.ca.gov.

For Sacramento office internships contact **Brandon Sanders** at **(916) 319-2030** or by e-mail at Brandon.Sanders@asm.ca.gov.

ON THIS DAY IN HISTORY

1805: Napoleon Bonaparte was crowned King of Italy in Milan Cathedral.

1835: A resolution passed in the U.S. Congress stating that Congress has no authority over state slavery laws.

1864: The Territory of Montana was organized.

1868: U.S. President Andrew Johnson was acquitted, by one vote, of all charges in his impeachment trial.

1896: The last czar of Russia, Nicholas II, was crowned.

1937: San Francisco Bay's Golden Gate Bridge opened.

1946: British Prime Minister Winston Churchill signed a military pact with Russian leader Joseph Stalin. Stalin promised a "close collaboration after the war."

1998: The U.S. Supreme Court ruled that Ellis Island was mainly in New Jersey, not New York.

Bakersfield Office:

601 24th St.,
Suite A
Bakersfield, CA 93301
Phone: (661) 334-3745
Fax: (661) 334-3796

Hanford Office:

321 N. Douty St.,
Suite B
Hanford, CA 93230
Phone: (559) 585-7170
Fax: (559) 585-7175

Capitol Office:

State Capitol
P.O. Box 942849
Sacramento, CA 94249
Phone: (916) 319-2030
Fax: (916) 319-2130

Email: Assemblymember.Parra@assembly.ca.gov

Web Site: <http://democrats.assembly.ca.gov/members/a30/>

If you wish to no longer receive email notifications please click the following link to [UNSUBSCRIBE](#)
If you wish to receive email updates in the future please click the following link to [SUBSCRIBE](#)